CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An integrated circuit, comprising:

a first bus interface logic for coupling to a first external bus;

5   an Alert Standard Format management engine configured to receive Alert Standard Format

sensor data over the first external bus; and

an indicator configured to indicate a master mode or a slave mode for the embedded Alert

Standard Format management engine, wherein in the master mode, the embedded Alert

Standard Format management engine is further configured to actively poll for the Alert

10   Standard Format sensor data over the first external bus.

2.   The integrated circuit of claim 1, further comprising:

a second bus interface logic for coupling to a first internal bus, wherein data from the first

external bus is routable by the embedded Alert Standard Format management engine

15   over the first internal bus.

3.   The integrated circuit of claim 2, further comprising:

an embedded Ethernet controller coupled to the first internal bus.

20   4.   The integrated circuit of claim 3, wherein the embedded Ethernet controller is configured

to route the Alert Standard Format sensor data from the embedded Alert Standard Format

management engine to an external management server.

5.   The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein the indicator is stored in an enable register in

25   the integrated circuit.

6.   The integrated circuit of claim 5, further comprising:

a power port configured to receive a reserve power signal, wherein the reserve power signal

provides reserve power to the enable register.

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7.   The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein the integrated circuit comprises a bridge,

wherein the bridge further includes:

a third bus interface logic for coupling to a second external bus.

10   8.   The bridge of claim 7, wherein the bridge comprises a south bridge, wherein the first

external bus is configurable as a first input/output bus.

9.   The south bridge of claim 8, wherein the first input/output bus is an SMBus.

15   10.   The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein the embedded Alert Standard Format

management engine comprises a microcontroller.

11.   The integrated circuit of claim 10, wherein the microcontroller is further configured as an

embedded 8051 microcontroller.

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12.   The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein the embedded Alert Standard Format

management engine in slave mode is configured to respond to an external Alert Standard

Format master.

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13.   An integrated circuit, comprising:

means for coupling to a first external bus;

means for receiving Alert Standard Format sensor data over the first external bus; and

means for indicating a master mode or a slave mode for the means for receiving Alert Standard

5   Format sensor data, wherein in the master mode, the means for receiving Alert Standard

Format sensor data are further configured to actively poll for the Alert Standard Format

sensor data over the first external bus.

14.   The integrated circuit of claim 13, further comprising:

10   means for routing the Alert Standard Format sensor data from the means for receiving Alert

Standard Format sensor data to an external management server.

15.   The integrated circuit of claim 13, wherein the means for receiving Alert Standard

Format sensor data is configured to respond to an external Alert Standard Format master

15   while in the slave mode.

16.   A client computer system, comprising:

a first bus;

a location for coupling to the first bus configured to receive an Alert Standard Format network

20   interface card; and

an integrated circuit, comprising:

a first bus interface logic for coupling to the first bus;

an Alert Standard Format management engine for receiving ASF sensor data configured

to receive ASF sensor data over the first bus; and

an indicator configured to indicate a master mode or a slave mode for the Alert Standard Format management engine, wherein in the master mode, the Alert Standard Format management engine is further configured to actively poll for the ASF sensor data over the first bus, while, the Alert Standard Format management engine is not further configured to actively poll for the ASF sensor data over the first bus in the slave mode.

17.   The client computer system of claim 16, wherein the Alert Standard Format management engine comprises a microcontroller.

18.   The client computer system of claim 17, wherein the microcontroller includes an embedded 8051 microcontroller.

19.   The client computer system of claim 16, wherein the integrated circuit comprises a bridge, wherein the bridge further includes:

a third bus interface logic for coupling to a second external bus.

20.   The client computer system of claim 19, wherein the bridge comprises a south bridge, wherein the first external bus is configurable as a first input/output bus.

21.   The client computer system of claim 16, further comprising:

the Alert Standard Format network interface card installed at the location; and

wherein the indicator of the integrated circuit indicates the slave mode in response to the presence of the Alert Standard Format network interface card.

22.   A method for performing ASF alerting and control in a client computer system, the method comprising:

detecting an Alert Standard Format network interface card presence in the client computer system;

5   operating an Alert Standard Format south bridge in a slave mode in response to detecting the Alert Standard Format network interface card presence in the client computer system positively; and

operating the Alert Standard Format south bridge in a master mode in response to detecting the Alert Standard Format network interface card presence in the client computer system

10   negatively.

23.   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

providing an indication of either the master mode or the slave mode for the Alert Standard Format south bridge in response to detecting the Alert Standard Format network interface

15   card presence in the client computer system.

24.   The method of claim 22, wherein operating the Alert Standard Format south bridge in the master mode comprises the Alert Standard Format south bridge polling Alert Standard Format sensors in the client computer system for Alert Standard Format sensor status

20   values and responding to requests from an external management server for the Alert Standard Format sensor status values.

25.   The method of claim 22, wherein operating the Alert Standard Format south bridge in the slave mode comprises responding to Alert Standard Format requests from the Alert

25   Standard Format network interface card by the Alert Standard Format south bridge.

26. A computer readable medium encoded with instructions that, when executed by a client computer system, performs a method for performing ASF alerting and control in a client computer system, the method comprising:

detecting an Alert Standard Format network interface card presence in the client computer system;

operating an Alert Standard Format south bridge in a slave mode in response to detecting the Alert Standard Format network interface card presence in the client computer system positively; and

operating the Alert Standard Format south bridge in a master mode in response to detecting the Alert Standard Format network interface card presence in the client computer system negatively.

27. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 26, the method further comprising:

providing an indication of either the master mode or the slave mode for the Alert Standard Format south bridge in response to detecting the Alert Standard Format network interface card presence in the client computer system.

28. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 26, wherein operating the Alert Standard Format south bridge in the master mode comprises the Alert Standard Format south bridge polling Alert Standard Format sensors in the client computer system for Alert Standard Format sensor status values and responding to requests from an external management server for the Alert Standard Format sensor status values.

29. The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 26, wherein operating the Alert Standard Format south bridge in the slave mode comprises responding to Alert Standard Format requests from the Alert Standard Format network interface card by the Alert Standard Format south bridge.

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